

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 783

By Jones S

A RESOLUTION to honor Representative Janis Baird Sontany for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost probity, and whose efforts during their time in office have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their district and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Janis Sontany is one such distinguished public servant who has served both her constituency and this legislative body with honor and distinction as a House member of the 103rd through the 107th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Janis Sontany has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of House District 53, who have evinced their firm belief in Representative Sontany's abilities as a legislator by electing her to serve five terms as their representative, a position in which she has performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean, born in Davidson County who served from 1995 to 2003 as a member of the Metro Council, Janis Baird Sontany attended the University of Tennessee at Nashville and was employed by DuPont for many years before taking her much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process, Representative Sontany currently renders sterling service as a member of the Commerce Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and the General Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, during her legislative career Representative Sontany has capably served as a member of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee, the Calendar and Rules Committee,

the Children and Family Affairs Committee, the Transportation Committee, the Health and Human Resources Committee, the Public Transportation and Highway Subcommittee, and the Public Health and Family Assistance Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, Representative Sontany served as the chair of the Family Justice Subcommittee, as the secretary of the Judiciary Committee, and as a member of the Select Oversight Committee on Children and Youth; and

WHEREAS, a remarkable individual who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, Representative Sontany has graciously donated her time and energies to many community and civic organizations, including Outlook Nashville, Nashville Thermal Transfer Corporation, Victims of Crime State Coordinating Council, Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee, Progress, Inc., Second Look Commission, YMCA Joe C. Davis Camp, and YMCA Camp Widjiwagan; and

WHEREAS, a past chair of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, Representative Sontany is also a past president of the Nashville Women's Political Caucus, and a member of Democratic Women of Davidson County and Women in Numbers (WIN); and

WHEREAS, Rep. Sontany is a member of a number of neighborhood associations, including Caldwell Abbey Hall, Castlegate, Crieve Hall, Edge-O-Lake, Flatrock Heritage, Glenclyff, Glengarry Park, Hill N. Dale, Percy Priest Meadows, Piccadilly Square Homeowners, Priest Lake Park, Radnor, Raymond Heights, Saturn Drive, Wheeler Avenue, Woodbine, and Una, in addition to TMAG (Thompson Lane Murfreesboro Road Action Group); and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Representative Sontany has received a number of honors, including the 1998 Public Leader of the Year Award from the Council on Mental Retardation, the 2006 Government Official of the Year from the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the 2006 Outstanding Legislator of the Year from the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence, the Outstanding Legislative Service award from the Nashville Humane Association, the Athena Award nominee 2002 and 2006, 2008 the Outstanding Legislator of the Year from Parks and Recreation Association, the 2007 Voice on the Hill Award from Tennessee Association Alcohol Drug and Addiction Services, and the 2008 Humane Legislator Award from Humane Society of the United States; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 honoree for the AWA Women of Achievement Award, she also received the 2010 HSUS Human Legislator Award, the 2010 Rein Maker Award from Rein (Reaching Equines in Need), 2009 AFL-CIO Leadership Award, 2009 Tennessee Conservation Voters Legislative Friends Award, 2009 Animal Control Association of Tennessee (ACAT) Outstanding Animal Welfare Advocate Award; and

WHEREAS, as part of a well-deserved tribute, the Davidson County Drug Court (DC4) Women's Residential Hall was named in her honor in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Representative Sontany is recognized throughout the great State of Tennessee as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes her conscience with the interest of the good people of House District 53 in her heart; and

WHEREAS, throughout her illustrious career as a public servant, Janis Sontany has worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents, bringing to her office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, her many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Janis Sontany is most appreciative of the love and companionship she shares with her two children; and

WHEREAS, Representative Janis Baird Sontany is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized for her distinguished tenure in this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative Janis Baird Sontany for her meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, commend her for her countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 53rd House District, and extend to her our best wishes for much success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.